

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-28 (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) A DC/AC inverter, comprising:

a plurality of power switches for converting a DC signal to an AC signal.

a step-up transformer receiving said AC signal and generating a stepped-up AC signal; and

an inverter controller adapted to generate a plurality of signals to drive said plurality of power switches, said controller comprising at least one input pin configured to receive two or more input signals, each said input signal supporting an associated function of said controller.

30. (Previously Presented) A DC/AC inverter as claimed in claim 29, further comprising one or more cold cathode fluorescent lamps (CCFL), said lamps receiving said stepped-up AC signal.

31. (Previously Presented) A DC/AC inverter as claimed in claim 29, wherein said power switches arranged to form an inverter circuit selected from a push-pull, half bridge and full-bridge inverter topologies.

32. (Previously Presented) A DC/AC inverter as claimed in claim 29, wherein said input pin configured to receive a first signal representing a dim voltage, said first signal having a first voltage range; and a second signal representing a voltage feedback signal indicative of voltage supplied to a load, said second signal having a second voltage range.

33. (Previously Presented) A DC/AC inverter as claimed in claim 29, further comprising a multiplexer circuit to direct one of said input signals to a first circuit to support a first said function of said controller, and to direct another of said input signals to a second circuit to support a second said function of said controller.

34. (Previously Presented) A DC/AC inverter as claimed in claim 29, wherein one of said input signals is present in a first time period and another of said input signals is present in a second time period.